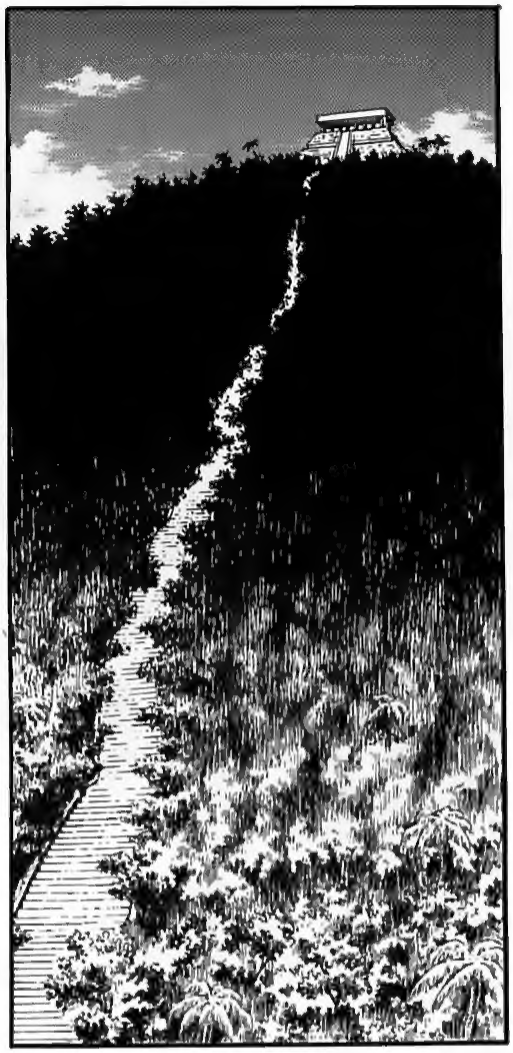
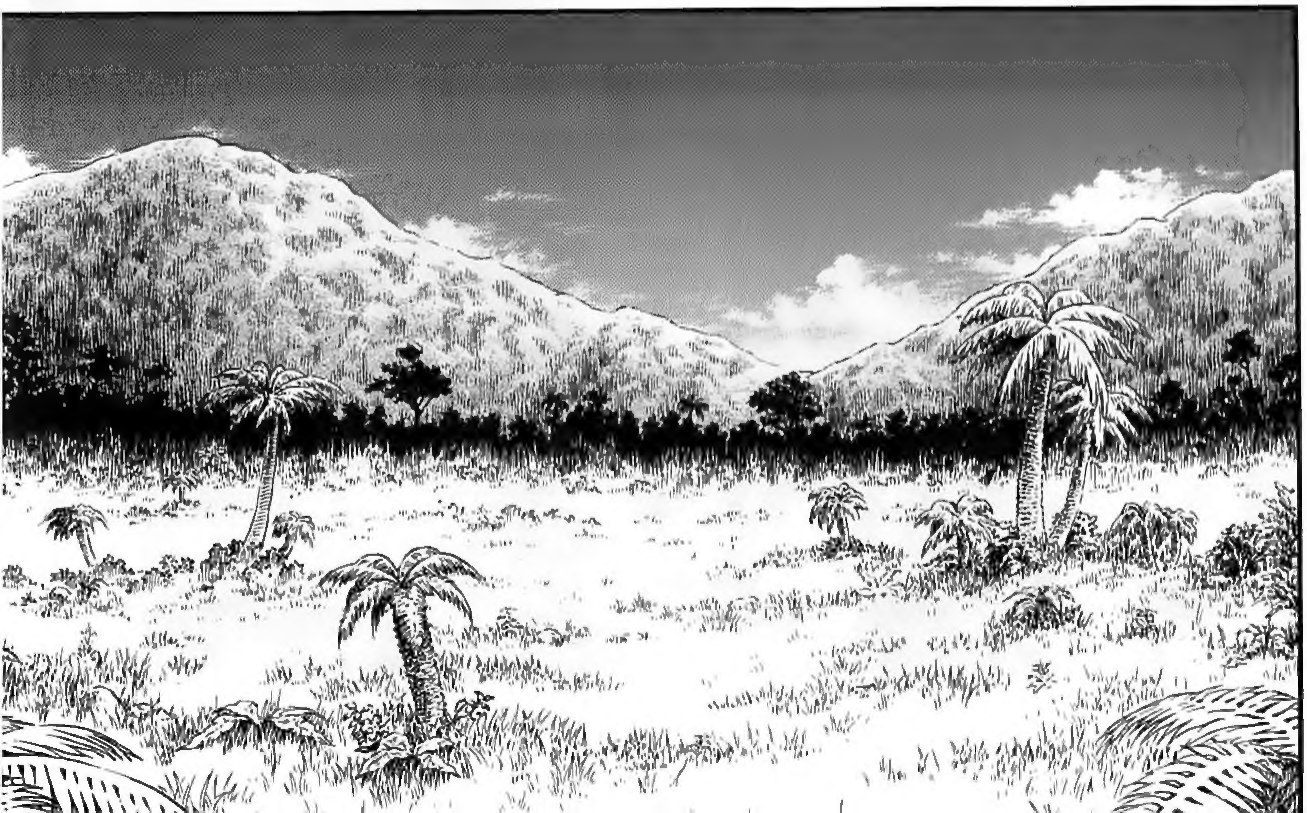
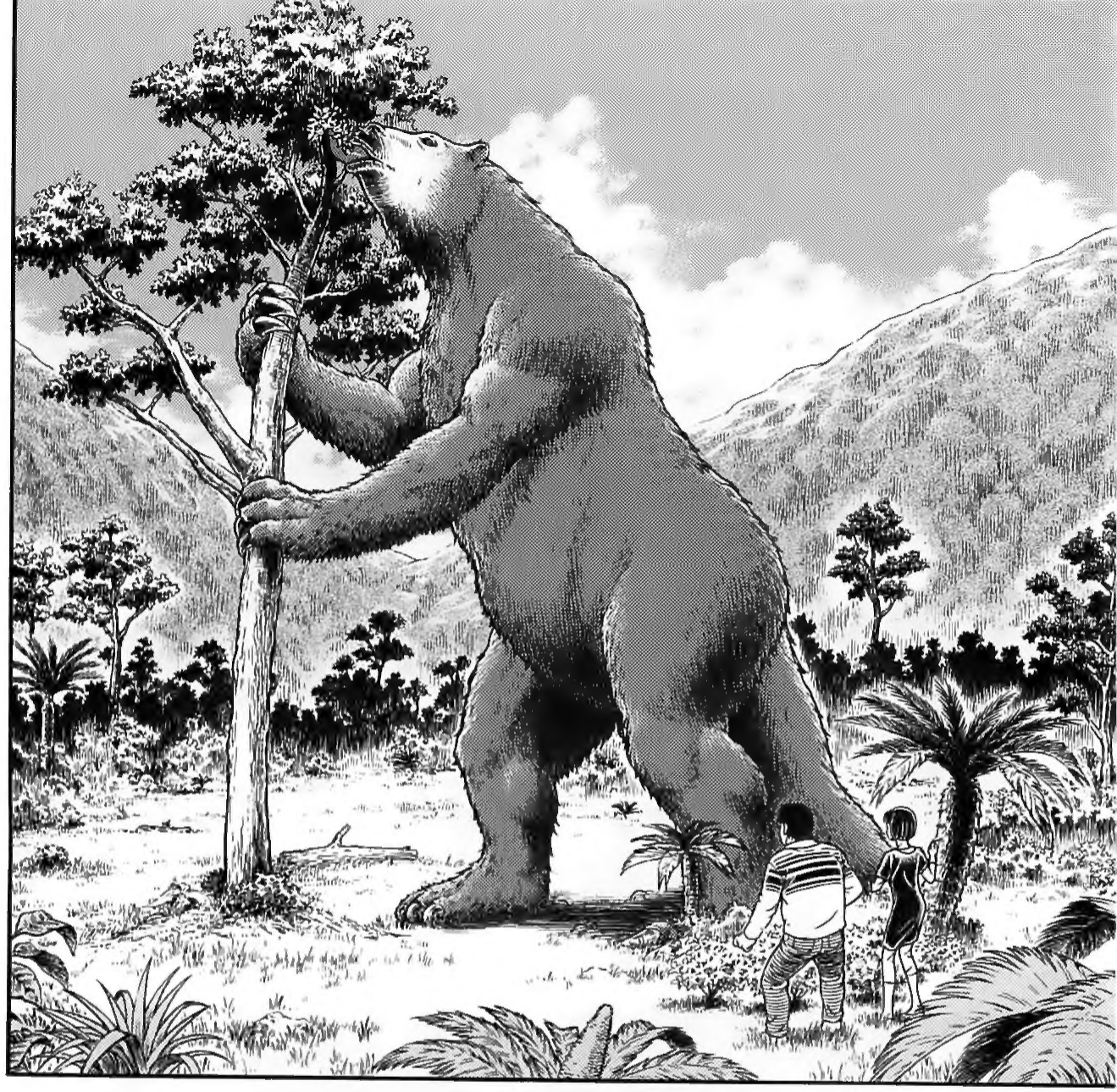
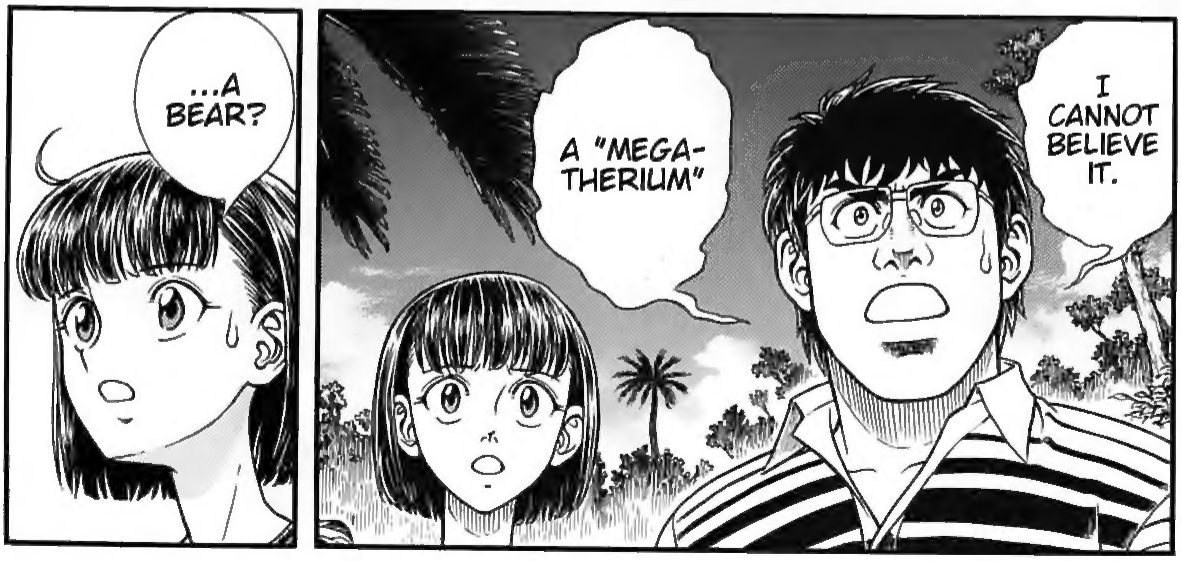
CHAPTER 187
ON THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND





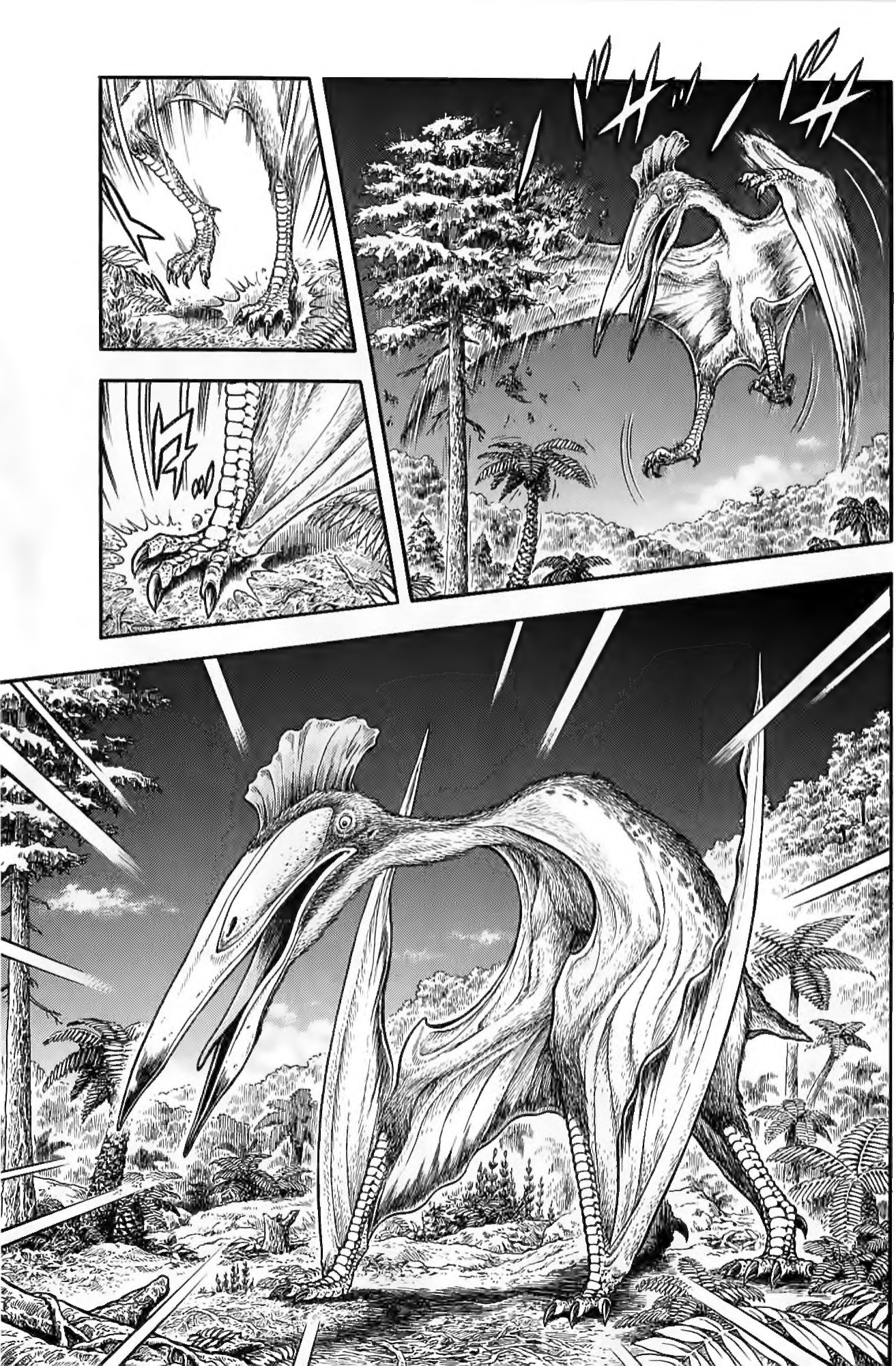



...A BEAR?
A "MEGA-THERIUM"
I CANNOT BELIEVE IT.

IT'S NOT A BEAR.
THEY'RE LOCATED IN THE SAME CLASSIFI-CATION AS SLOTHS ARE.
IF MY MEMORY SERVES ME COR-RECTLY
EH...
THEY DIED OUT MORE THAN 10000 YEARS AGO.

A PTERO-
SAUR!?

WH... WHAT'S THAT...?
RUN, MIZUKI!!
IT'S DANGE-ROUS.
IT'S PROBABLY A "QUATZEL-COATLUS".
IT'S THE LARGEST FLYING CREATURE IN HISTORY.
LET'S HIDE BEHIND THAT TREE.



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QUICK, INTO THE FOREST OVER THERE.
DON'T LOOK AROUND, MIZUKI.
HI
EE
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IT STOPPED?
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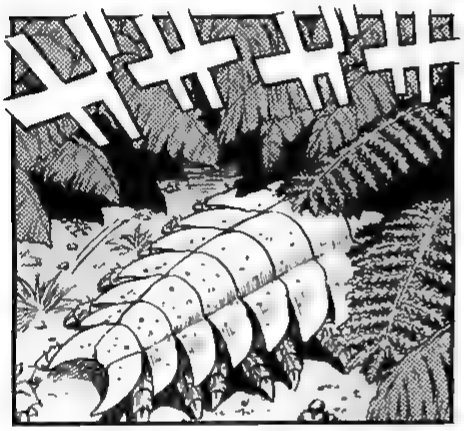
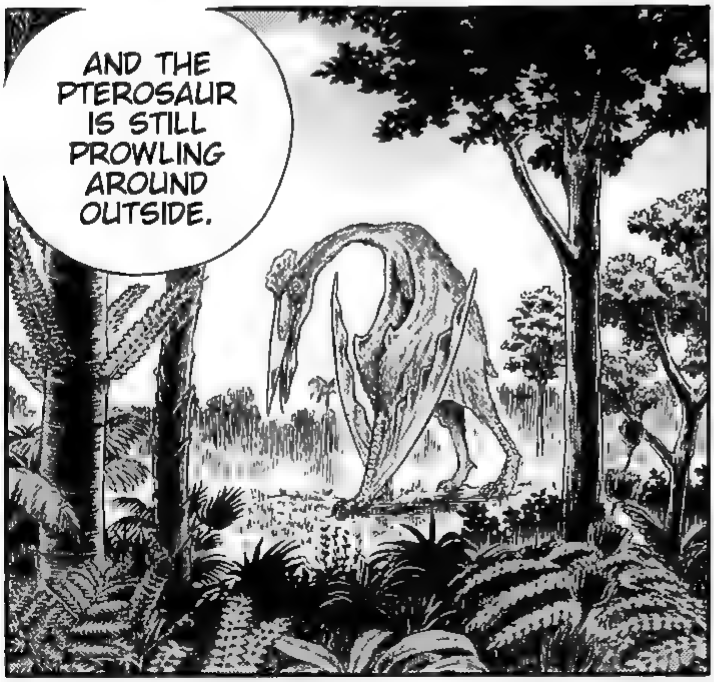
SEEMS LIKE IT'S FOUND ANOTHER PREY.
IT'S EATING... SOME-THING?
MIZUKI !!

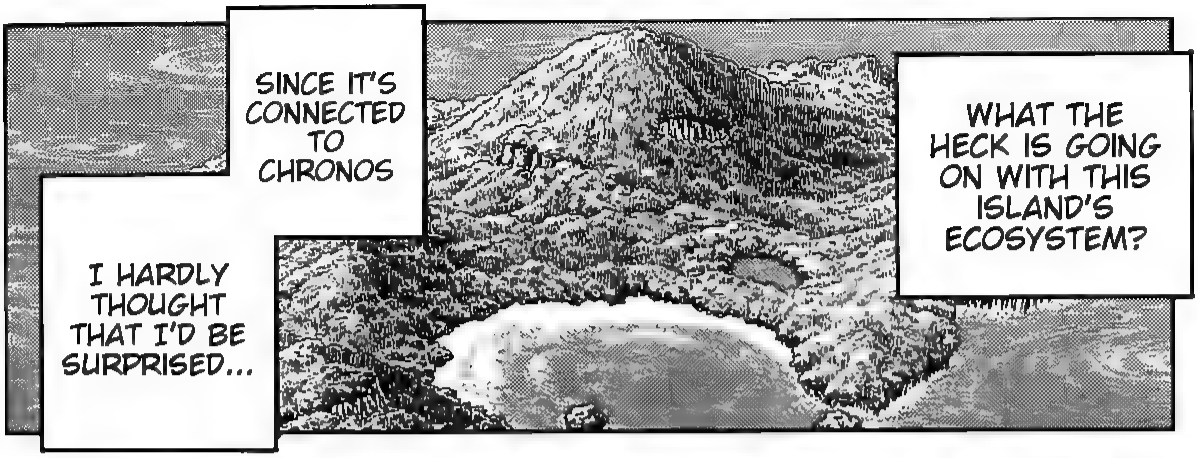
WAS THIS WHAT THE PTERO-SAUR WAS EATING?
A LARGE CENTI-PEDE!?

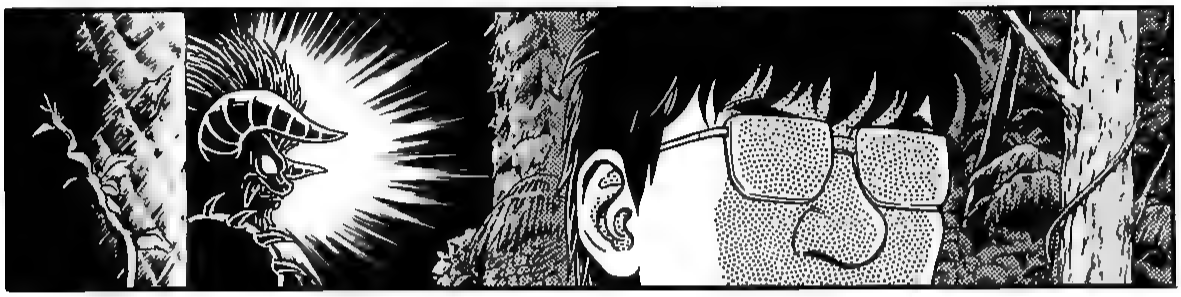



AND THE PTEROSAUR IS STILL PROWLING AROUND OUTSIDE.

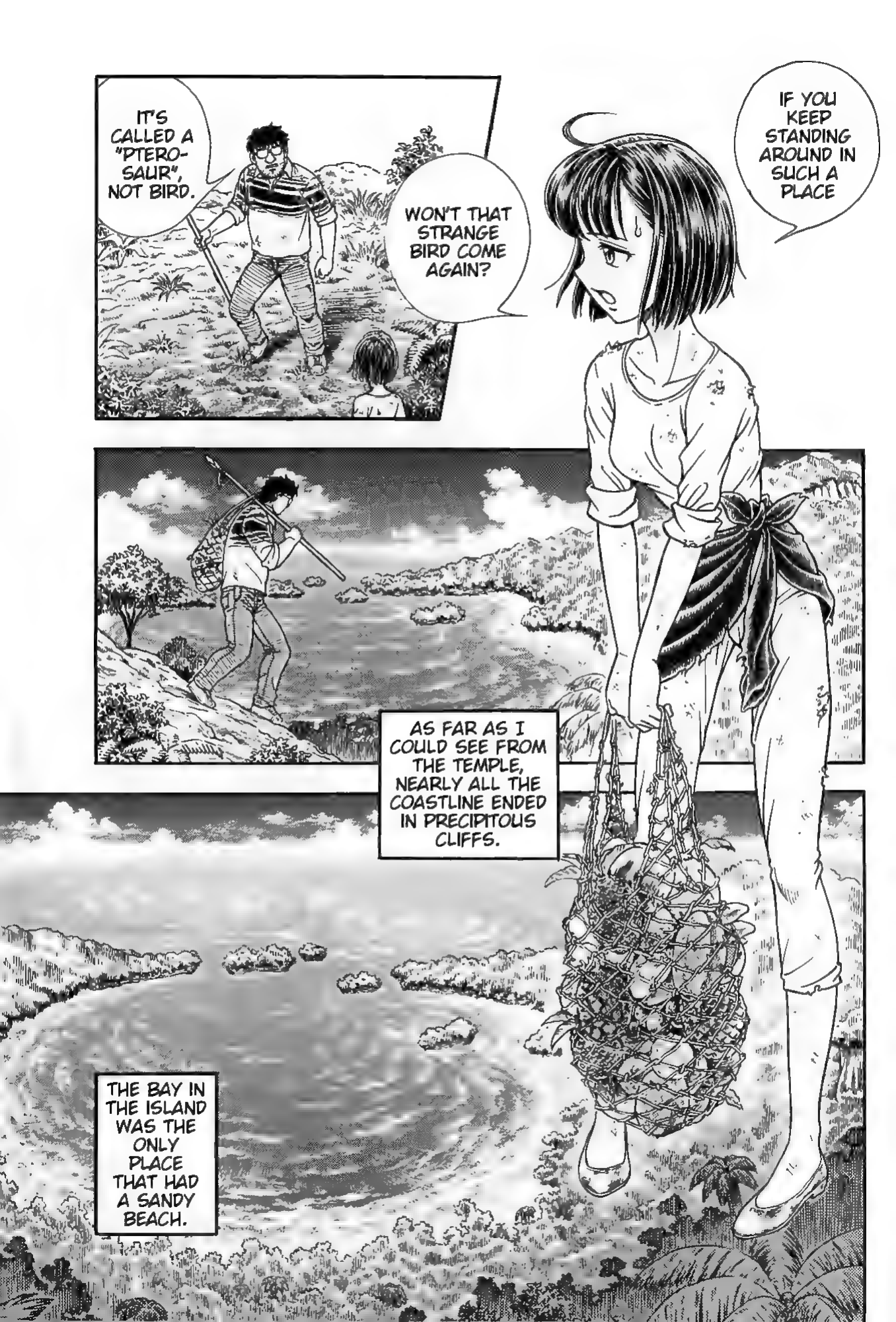
DAMN IT.
THE FOREST IS SWARMING WITH THESE PARASITES.

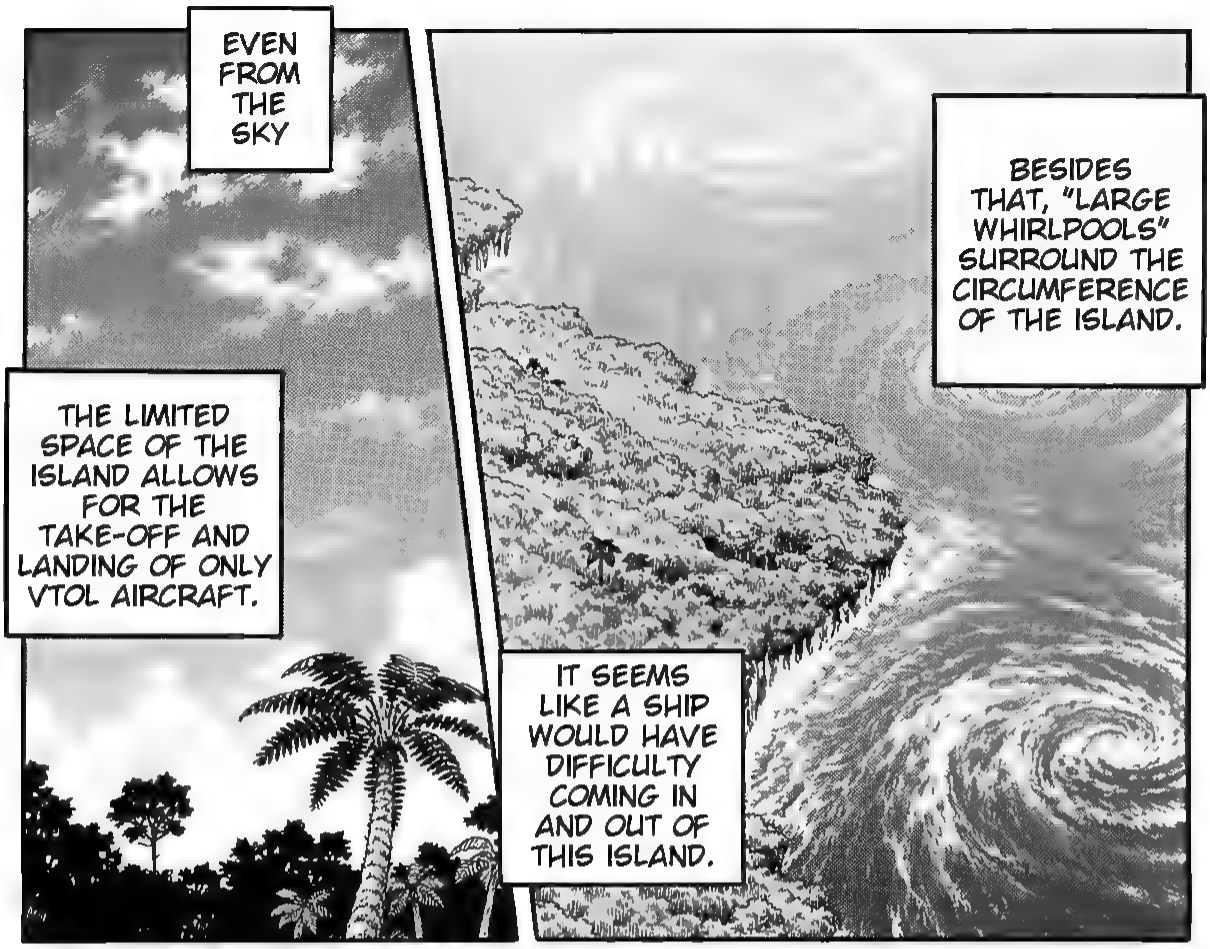
IT'S BECAUSE YOU GOT HUNGRY, AND YOU SUGGESTED THAT WE EXPLORE THE ISLAND...
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, BIG BROTHER.
UGH.
ENOUGH ALREA-DY.
WE WOULD'VE JUST COMPLETELY DRIED UP IN THAT TEMPLE.
IT DIDN'T EVEN HAVE ANY DRINKING WATER.
WHAT ELSE COULD WE DO?
AT ANY RATE
...THAT'S RIGHT, BUT


SINCE IT'S CONNECTED TO CHRONOS
I HARDLY THOUGHT THAT I'D BE SURPRISED...
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON WITH THIS ISLAND'S ECOSYSTEM?

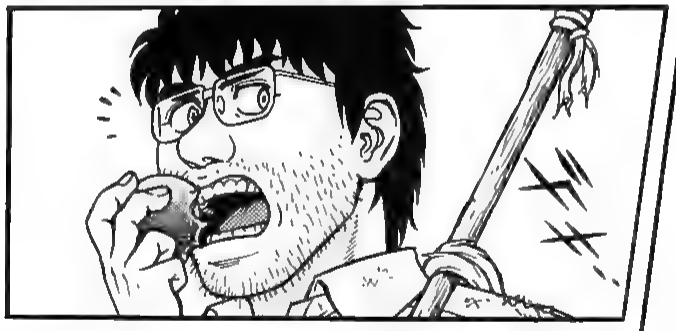


BIG BROTHER.

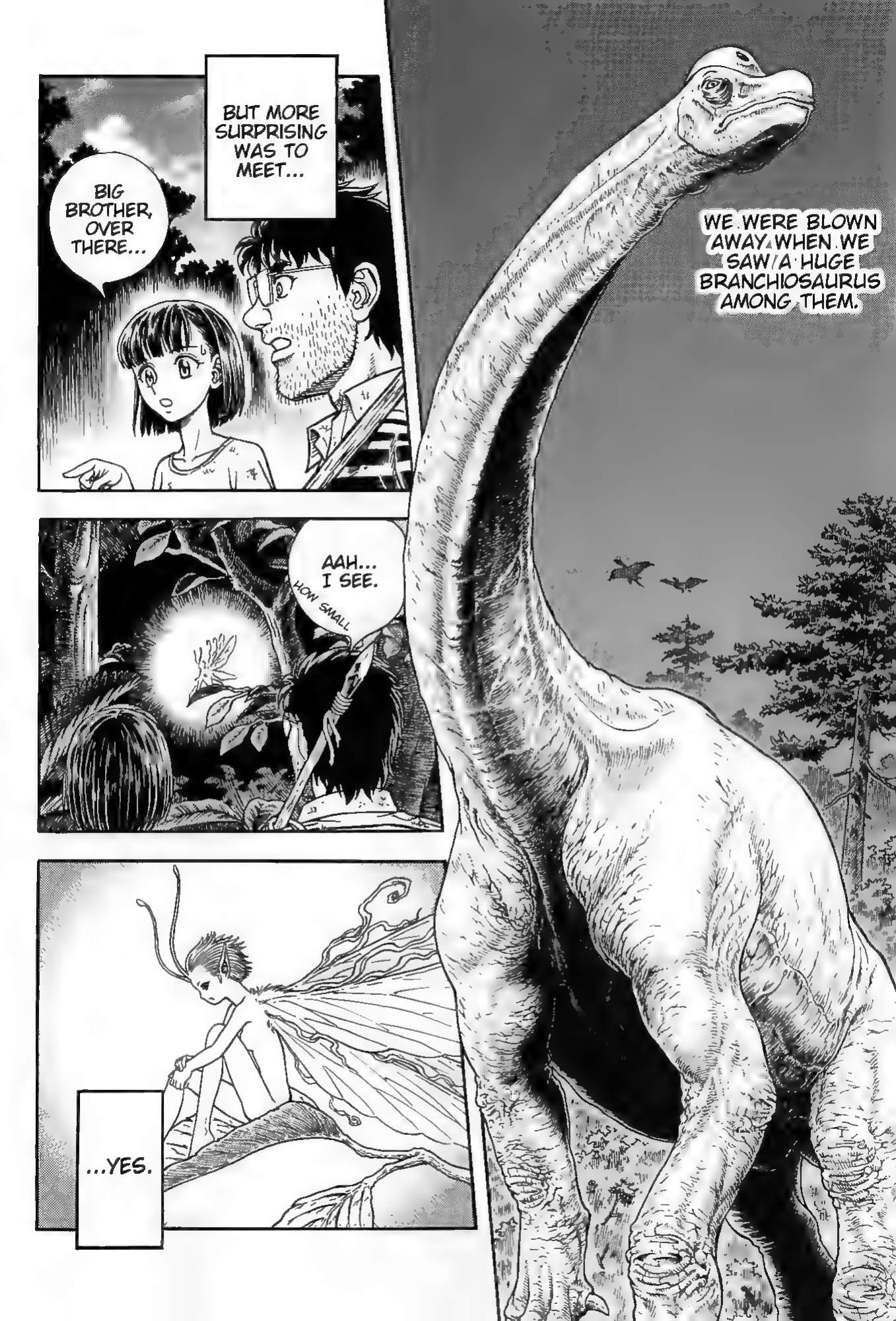

IT'S CALLED A "PTERO-SAUR", NOT BIRD.
WON'T THAT STRANGE BIRD COME AGAIN?
IF YOU KEEP STANDING AROUND IN SUCH A PLACE
AS FAR AS I COULD SEE FROM THE TEMPLE, NEARLY ALL THE COASTLINE ENDED IN PRECIPITOUS CLIFFS.
THE BAY IN THE ISLAND WAS THE ONLY PLACE THAT HAD A SANDY BEACH.


EVEN FROM THE SKY
THE LIMITED SPACE OF THE ISLAND ALLOWS FOR THE TAKE-OFF AND LANDING OF ONLY VTOL AIRCRAFT.
BESIDES THAT, "LARGE WHIRLPOOLS" SURROUND THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF THE ISLAND.
IT SEEMS LIKE A SHIP WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY COMING IN AND OUT OF THIS ISLAND.

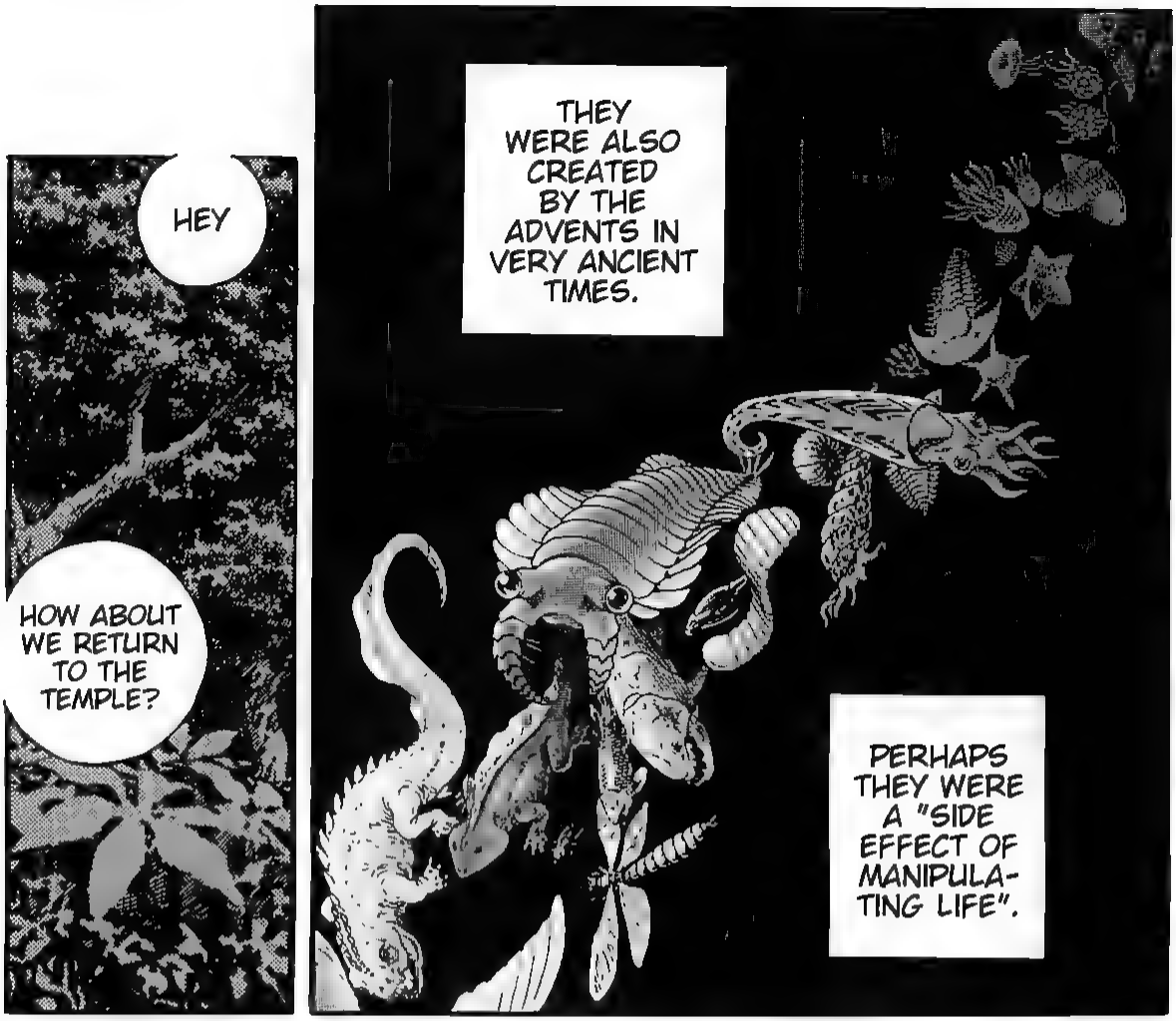
VTOL: VERTICAL TAKE-OFF AND LANDING

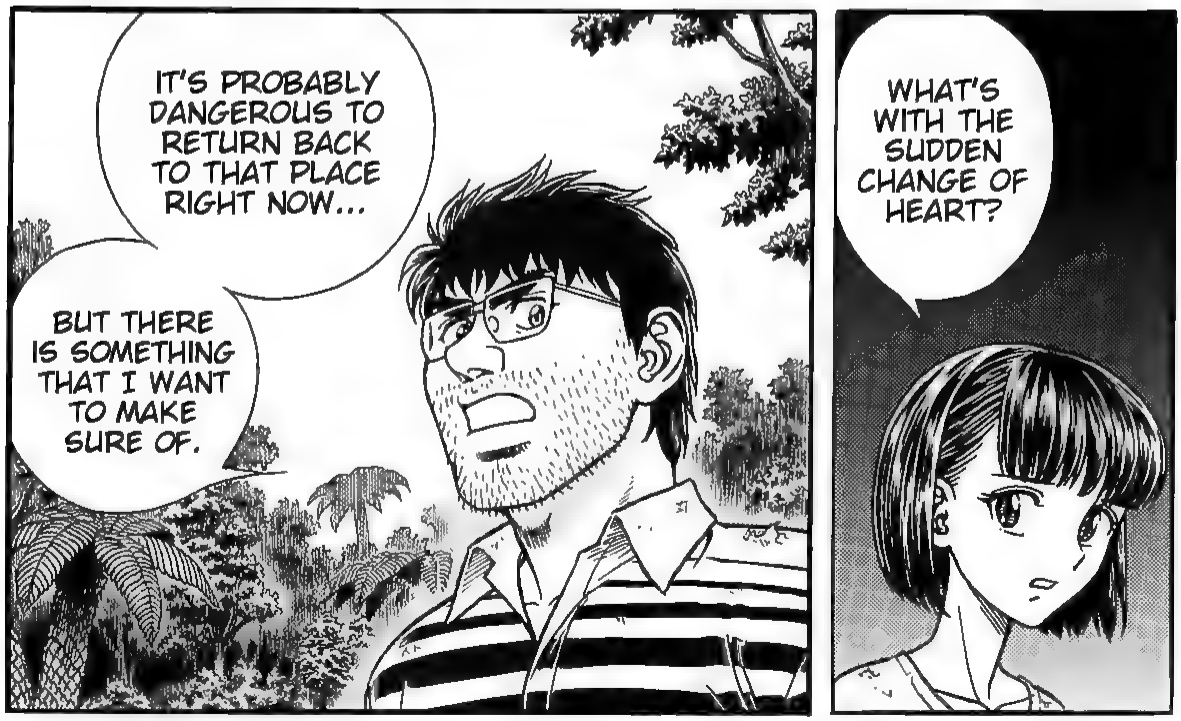


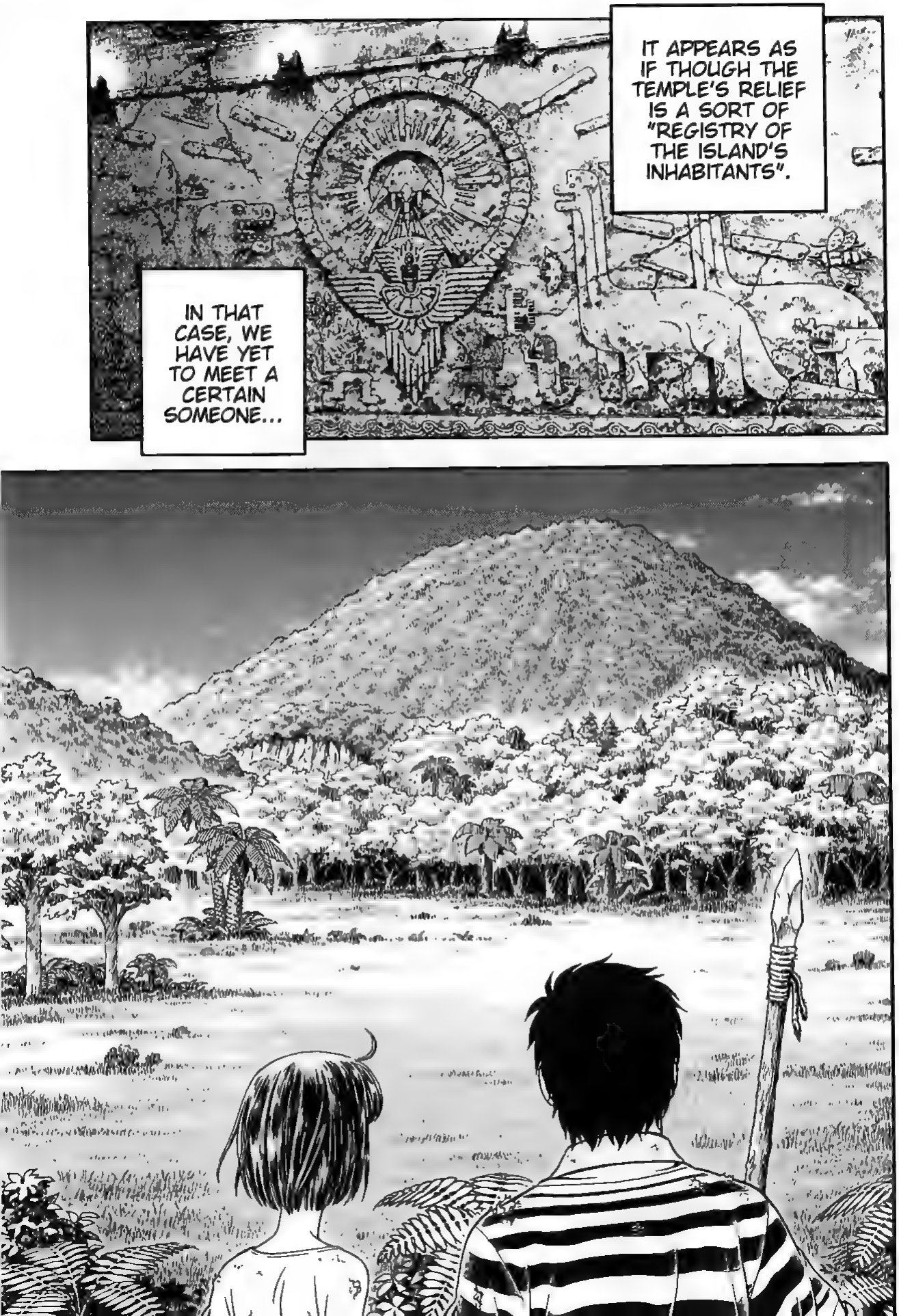
IT'S BEEN SEVEN DAYS SINCE WE LEFT THE TEMPLE...
IT'S NOTHING.
OH...
AT ANY RATE, SOMETHING ASTONISHING HAPPENS EVERY DAY.
OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN ENDANGERED SEVERAL TIMES ALREADY.
WE EVEN MET
THE VARIOUS "INHABI-TANTS" OF THE ISLAND.


BUT MORE SURPRISING WAS TO MEET...
BIG BROTHER, OVER THERE...
WE WERE BLOWN AWAY WHEN WE SAW A HUGE BRANCHIOSAURUS AMONG THEM.
AAH... I SEE.
HOW SMALL
...YES.

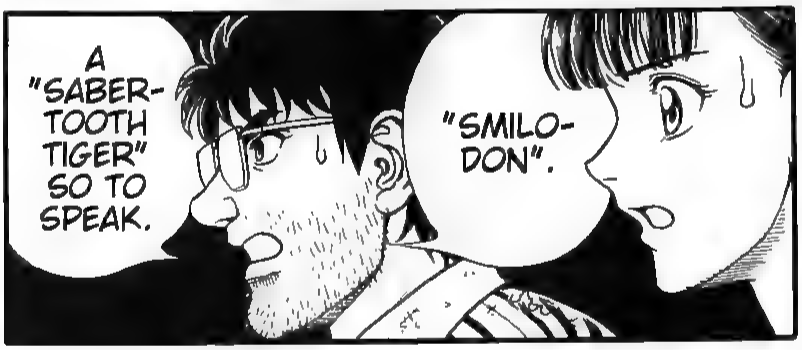
REAL MYTHOLOGICAL BEINGS.


HEY
HOW ABOUT WE RETURN TO THE TEMPLE?
THEY WERE ALSO CREATED BY THE ADVENTS IN VERY ANCIENT TIMES.
PERHAPS THEY WERE A "SIDE EFFECT OF MANIPULATING LIFE".


IT'S PROBABLY DANGEROUS TO RETURN BACK TO THAT PLACE RIGHT NOW...
BUT THERE IS SOMETHING THAT I WANT TO MAKE SURE OF.
WHAT'S WITH THE SUDDEN CHANGE OF HEART?


IT APPEARS AS IF THOUGH THE TEMPLE'S RELIEF IS A SORT OF "REGISTRY OF THE ISLAND'S INHABITANTS".
IN THAT CASE, WE HAVE YET TO MEET A CERTAIN SOMEONE...

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SOMETHING WILL ATTACK US IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIELD.
JUST LIKE LAST TIME
WE CAN TAKE A SHORTCUT BY CROSSING THIS FIELD
BUT...
LET'S CIRCLE AROUND THE FOREST'S PERIMETER.
THAT WAY, WE CAN HIDE IN THE FOREST IN CASE OF SOMETHING.
WAIT.

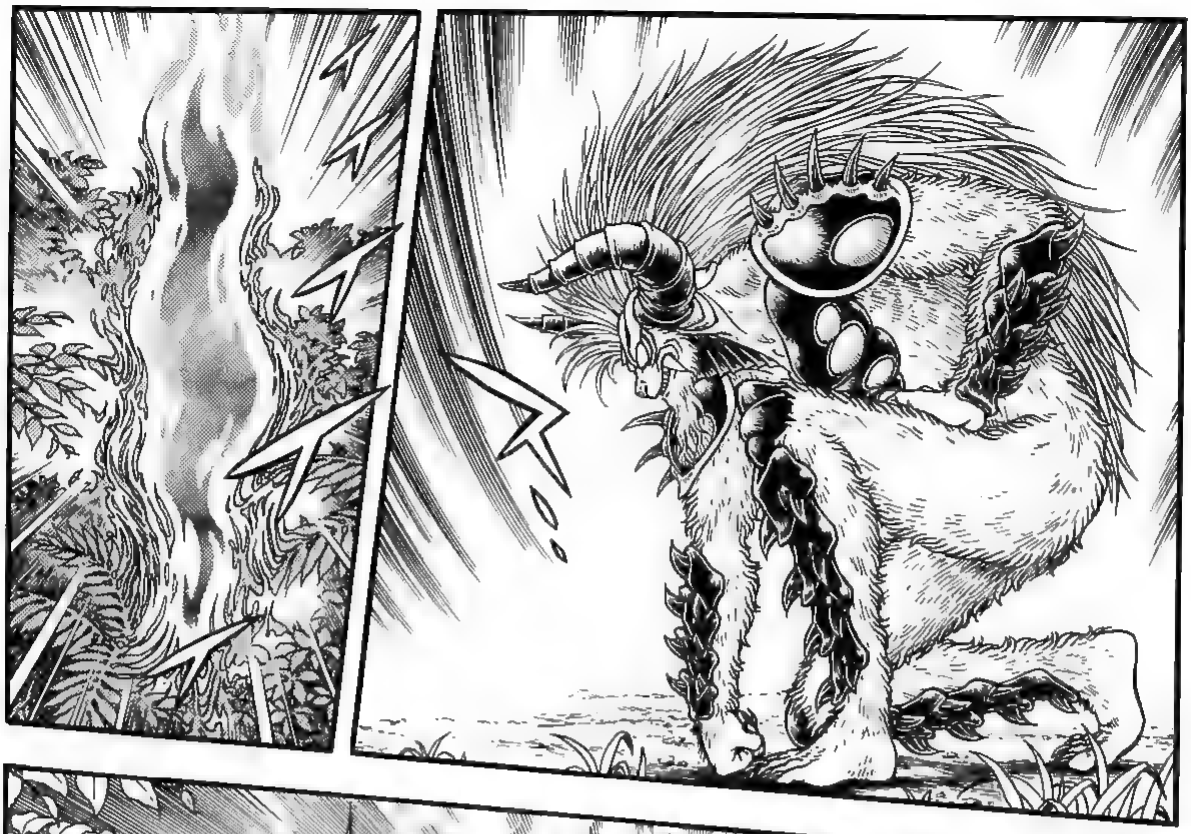

A "SABER-TOOTH TIGER" SO TO SPEAK.
"SMILO-DON".

LET'S GET OUT OF HARM'S WAY.
SEEMS LIKE IT HASN'T NOTICED US.

BIG BRO-THER
THERE WAS ANOTHER ONE!?
A SMILO-DON!?
SHIT
ヒィ
HERE GOES NOTHING

RUN, MIZUKI!!
BIG BRO-THER...
NO GOOD
ANOTHER ONE...

IS THIS...
A ZOA-NOID!?



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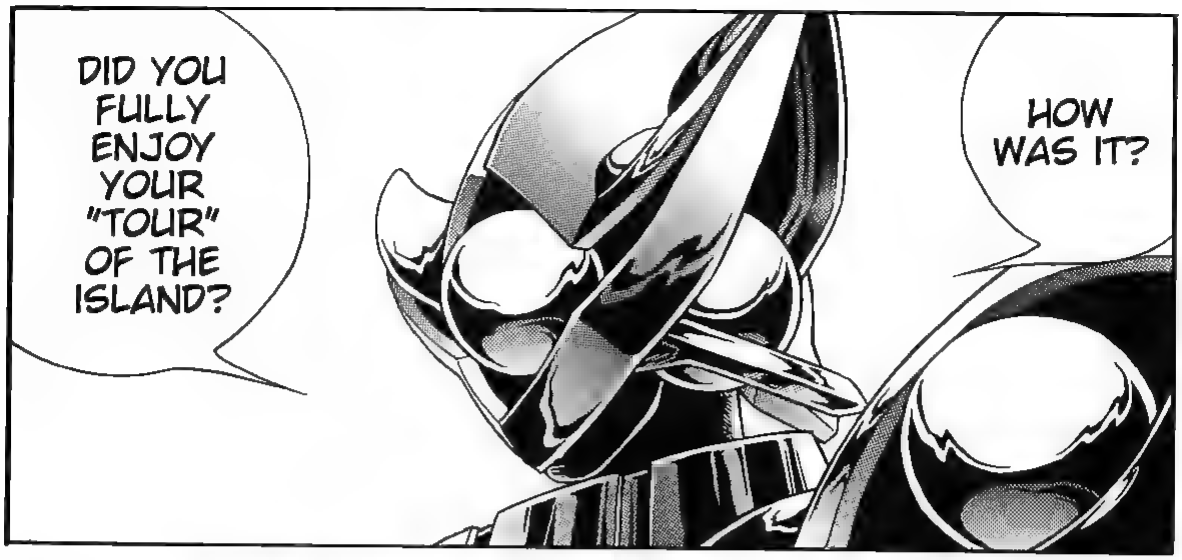
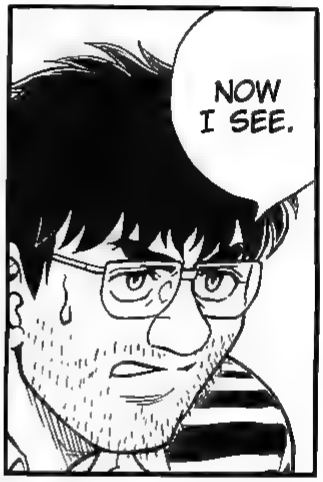
APOL-
LON!?


DID YOU FULLY ENJOY YOUR "TOUR" OF THE ISLAND?
HOW WAS IT?

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SENT THIS ZOANOID TO MONITOR US.
THIS WAS ALL YOUR HANDIWORK.

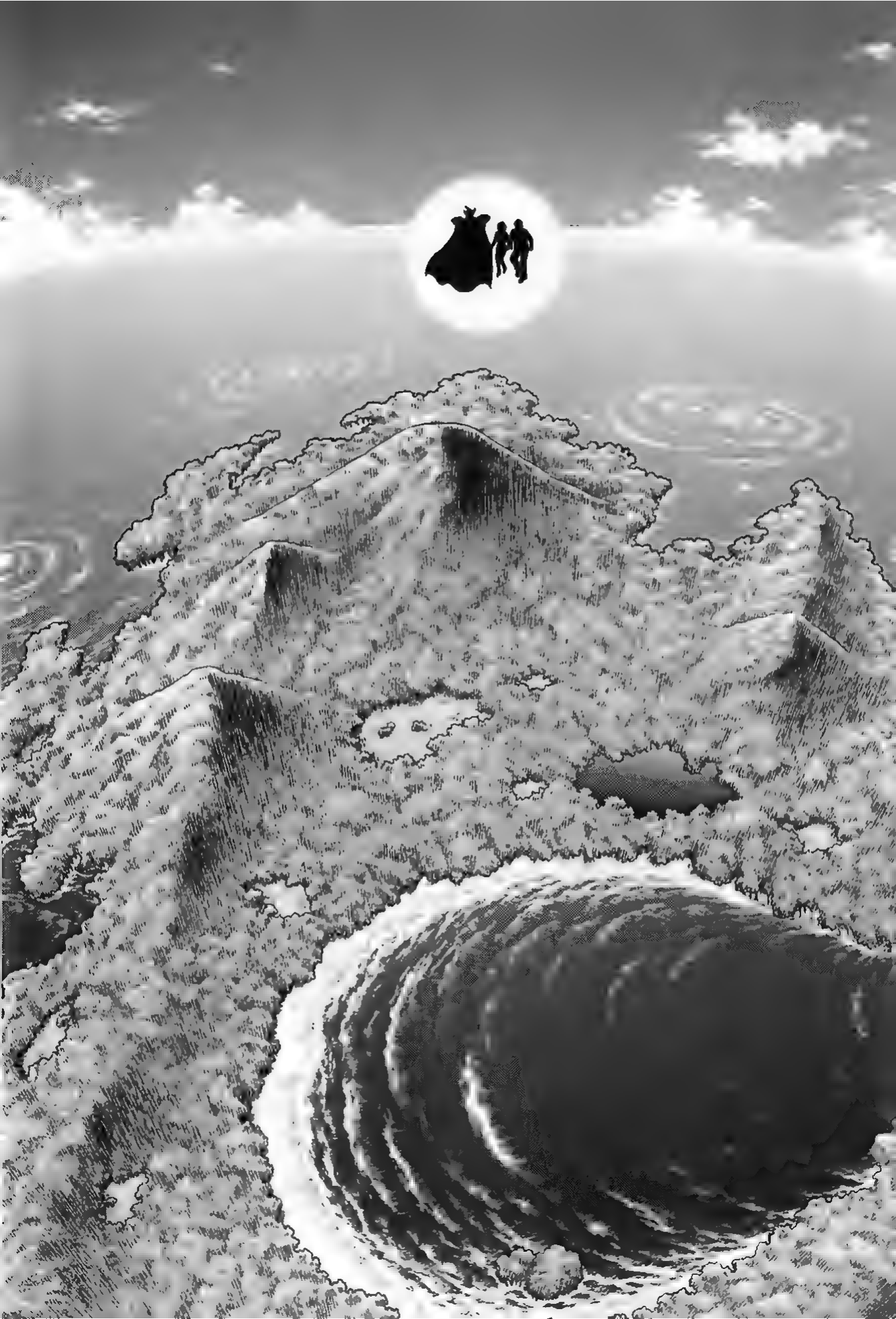

NOW I SEE.

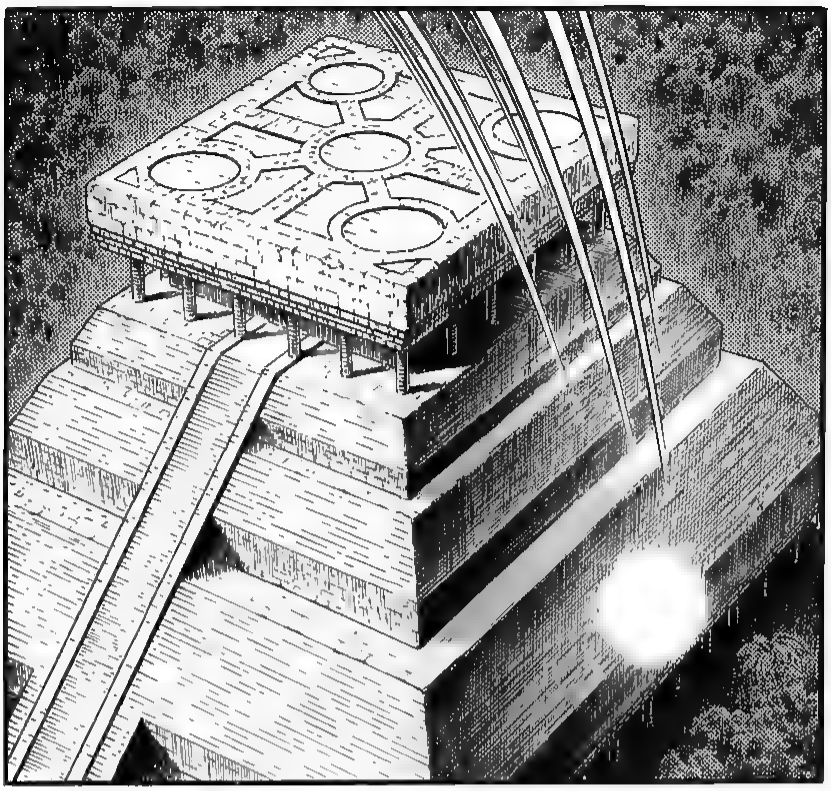
WHY DID YOU LET US WANDER FREE FOR A WHOLE WEEK?
WHEN WE LEFT THE TEMPLE

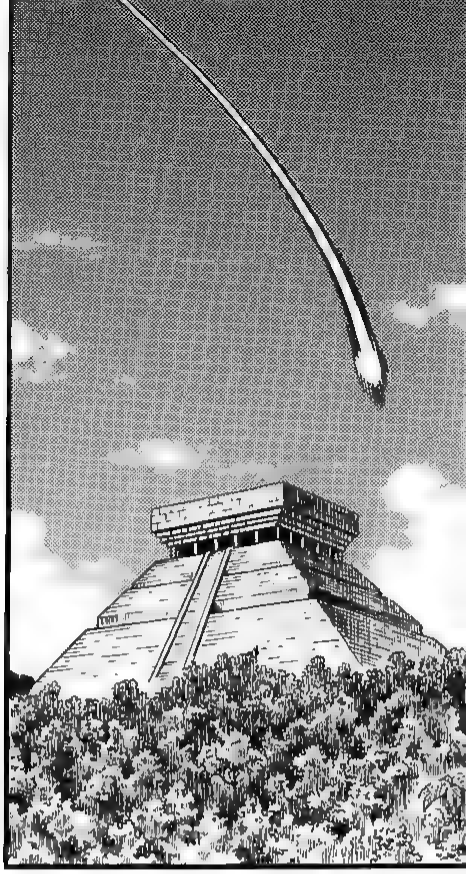
I WOULD
RATHER SAY TO PROTECT YOU.

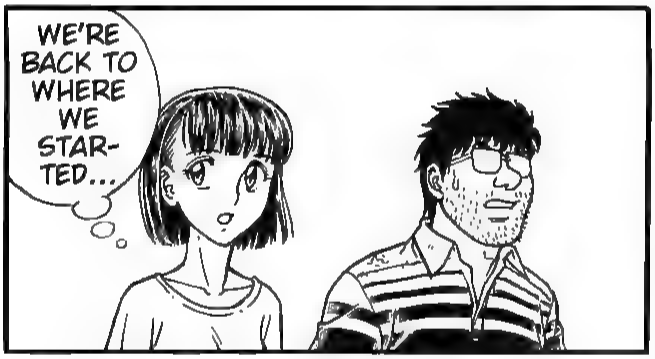
.....
WHAT KIND OF PLACE THIS ISLAND IS.
I WANTED YOU TO KNOW
WITH YOUR OWN EYES IS MUCH QUICKER
THAN TO SIMPLY EXPLAIN IT WITH WORDS.
AND TO GET THE OPPOR-TUNITY TO SEE IT
IS THE TEMPLE.
I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?
THE SAFEST PLACE ON THIS ISLAND

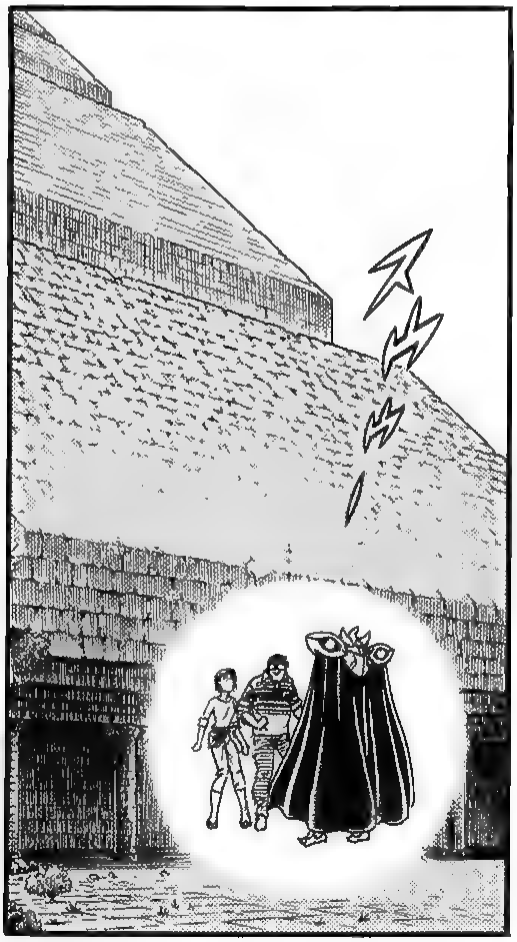
WHA-
ACK
!?
.....

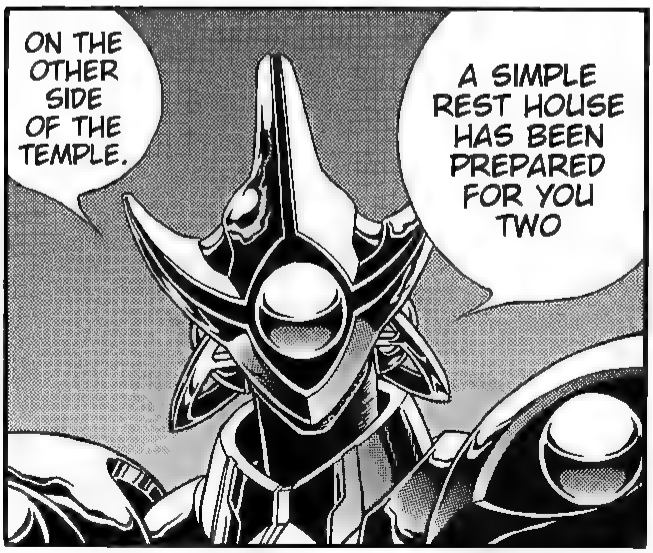




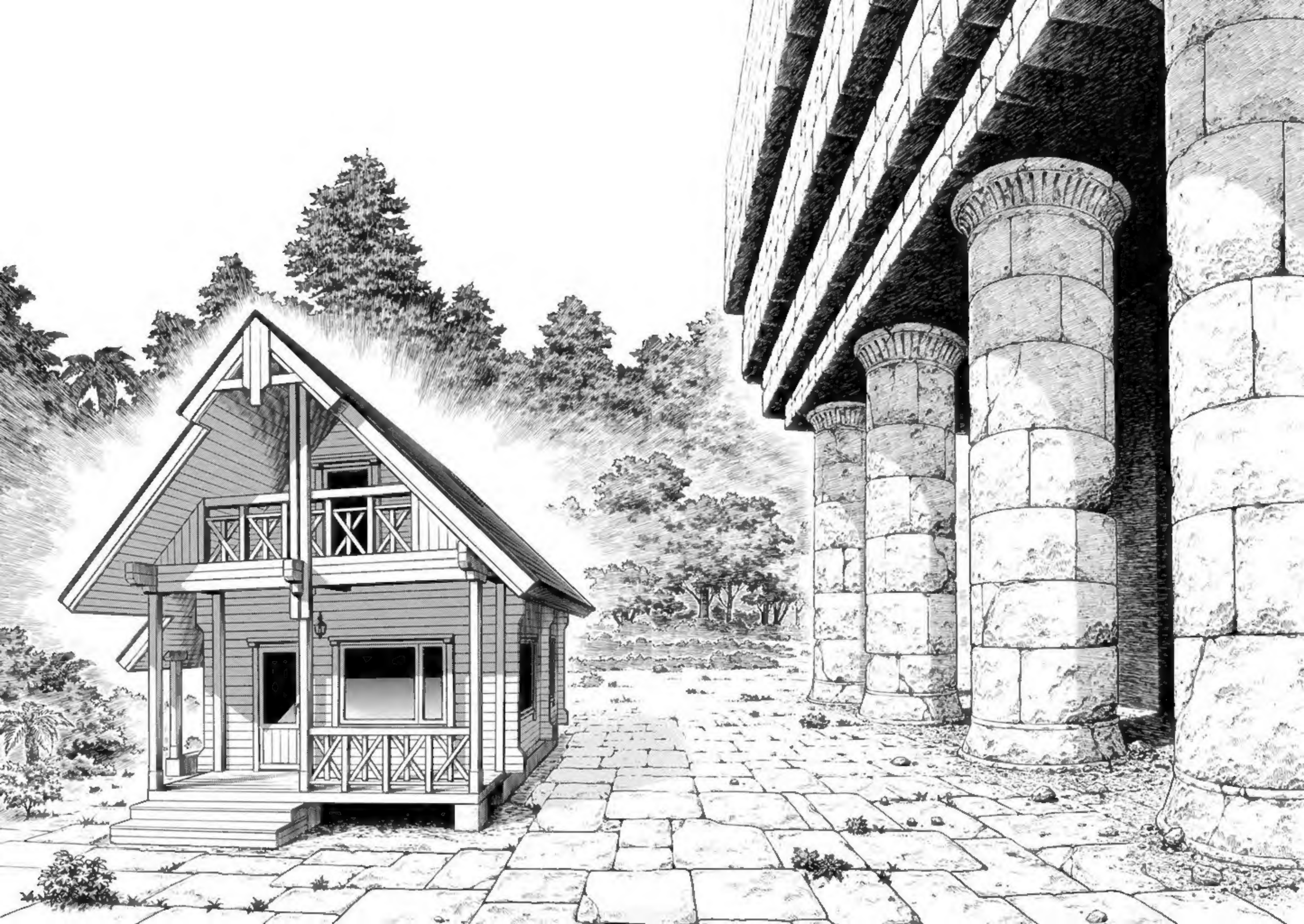


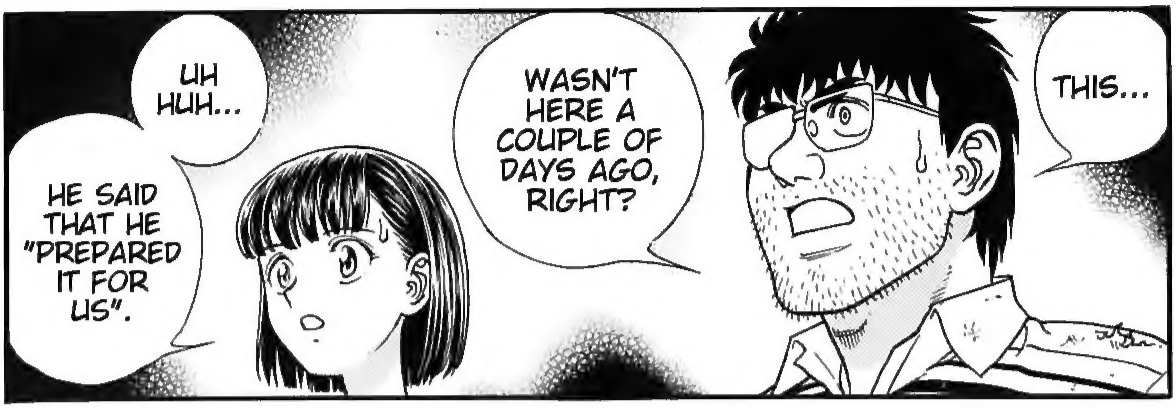

WE'RE BACK TO WHERE WE STAR-TED...

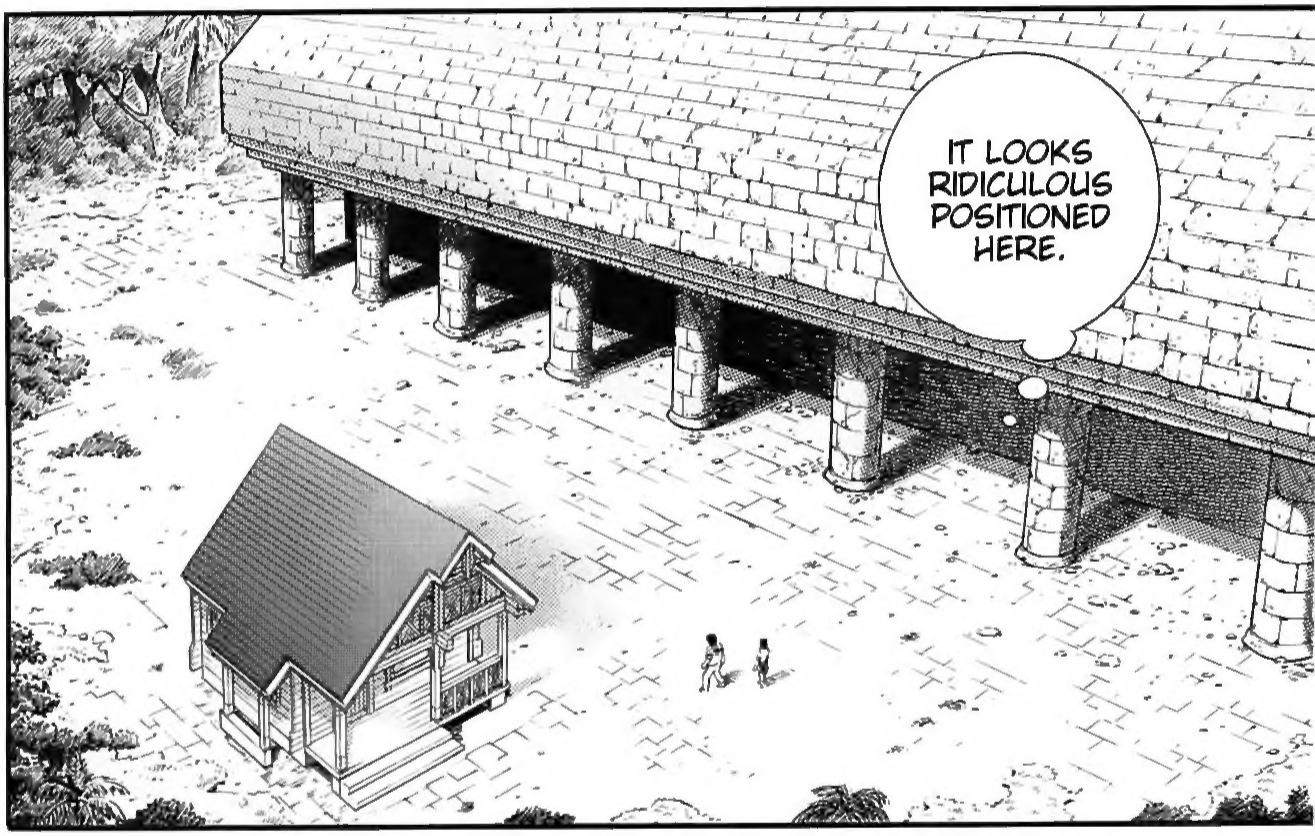


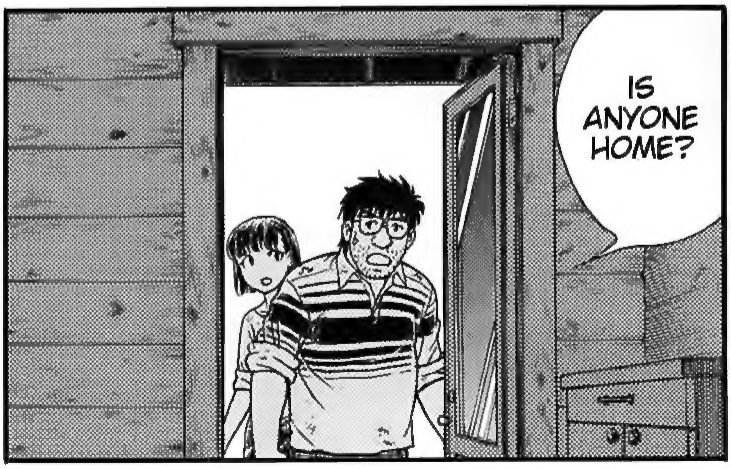

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TEMPLE.
A SIMPLE REST HOUSE HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR YOU TWO

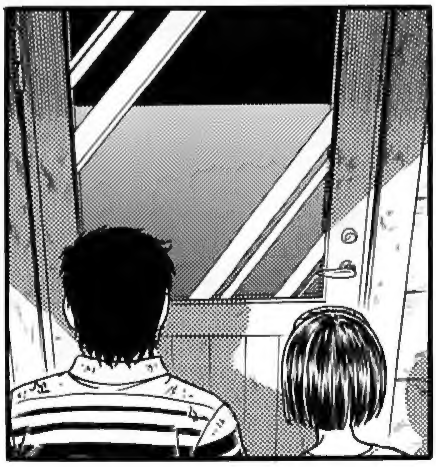
DAMN ...
WA... WAIT...
IT'S MORE COMFORTABLE THAN CAMPING OUT IN THE JUNGLES AT NIGHT.
MIZUKI...
LET'S GO CHECK OUT THE REST HOUSE, BIG BROTHER
OR WHATEVER HE SAID IT WAS.
.....
...EVEN IF IT'S JUST A SHACK
WE CAN AT LEAST TAKE COVER FROM THE RAIN.




UH HUH...
HE SAID THAT HE "PREPARED IT FOR US".
WASN'T HERE A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, RIGHT?
THIS...


IT LOOKS RIDICULOUS POSITIONED HERE.


IS ANYONE HOME?



EVEN INSIDE... IT DOESN'T LOOK THAT BAD.
IS THE KITCHEN...
THAT WAY?
AN AIR CONDI-TIONER!?
NO WAY... THERE'S ELECTRICITY SET UP HERE?
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE SOLAR PANELS ON THE ROOF...

IT SEEMS LIKE WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES...
MIZUKI...
IT'S GREAT, BIG BROTHER!!
THE KITCHEN HAS EVERYTHING WE NEED...
WHO'VE COME TO THIS ISLAND.